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Vest Pocket Essays By GEORGE FITCH Author of "At Good Old Wash"

JITNEY BUSSES.

The jitney bus is a contrivance for making a perfect democracy out of the automobile.

Ten years ago only millionaires rode in automobiles. Five years ago only the prosperous or the foolish could afford them. But today the scrub lady holds up three fingers at the street corner and steps into a tonneau as carelessly as if she had a stable full of touring cars at home. The jitney bus is an automobile which is trying to earn a decent living. It is also an illustration of the marvels of science. Ten years ago it took a four figure income to keep an automobile out of the repair shop. Today the brave young son pats his ruined father on the back and says, "Cheer up, dad. All is not lost because you were defeated for alderman." Then he takes the family auto out and supports the home by hauling passengers at five cents a head.

The jitney bus also illustrates the power of words. It was impossible to make money hauling people in an automobile for five cents until some word could be found to popularize the job. Suddenly the word "jitney" was discovered in a pitiable condition due to lack of employment. Immediately ten thousand automobiles were equipped with the new word and the public passed up a dozen street cars apiece to discover what the blamed thing was like.

The jitney bus flourishes most where the street car president is proudest and haughtiest and the street car company is soggiest as to capitalization. Up to the last year the American citizen who didn't like to hang by a strap with a fellow citizen on his feet and another in his thorax could walk and tell his trou-

bles to the ash man. Today he stops a jit, hops in, gets home in half the time and regards the street car with a cold independent grin.

This is a very serious thing for the street cars. We are not going to see so much calm content hereafter in the street car magnate who rides



Ballyhooing for trade with a dinner bell.

home each night in his automobile. We will be more likely to see him standing on a down town corner ballyhooing for trade with a dinner bell and calling attention to the fact that each street car passenger gets a chance on a fine set of dishes to be given away on Saturday afternoon. Just about the time anyone gets too almighty imperial in this country some little thing like the jitney bus comes along and reduces his assessed valuation about \$11,000,000. Great is American ingenuity!

CABBAGE BEETLE DOES MUCH HARM

Insect Carefully Avoids Arsenical Sprays Effective Against Many Other Pests.

BEST METHODS FOR CONTROL

Tobacco Dust Found to Be Most Effective of Repellents Tested—Arsenate of Lead Applications Found Satisfactory.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Evidently the Western cabbage flea beetle was not hatched to die by poison—at least by sprays of arsenicals found so effective against many crop insect pests. It may be driven away, however, by poisonous applications, and herein lies the methods of control discovered by specialists of the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, whose experiments in combating the pest are described in Department Bulletin 902, "The Western Cabbage Flea Beetle," recently published. This insect is by no means confined to cabbage, but frequently does serious injury to turnips, radishes, mustard, kale and other cole crops, to sugar beets, table beets and under exceptional conditions to beans and peas.

Dainty in Habits.

The beetles, it is said, are dainty in their feeding habits, carefully avoiding foliage that has been sprayed, and attacking either unsprayed parts or flying to other plants. Repellents such as tobacco dust were found to be the most effective of those tested, and of the arsenicals, heavy applications of arsenate of lead gave the most satisfactory results.

A formula that gave excellent results was arsenate of lead paste, 1 pound; fish-oil soap, as a sticker, 1 pound; and water, 10 gallons. Half of this weight of powdered lead arsenate, or 2½ pounds in 50 gallons of water, is equally effective, with a corresponding quantity of soap, to act as an adhesive, or "sticker." It should be applied with a sprayer fitted with elbow extension, and special effort should be made to coat thoroughly the under surface of the leaves. Two or three applications at five to eight-day intervals are sufficient, even in case of severe infestation, provided the first application is made promptly on the first appearance of the insect.

Control by Nicotine.

The pest can also be controlled by nicotine sulphate, one-half pint, 40 per cent solution, in 50 gallons of water, with 3 pounds of soap added, which is a deterrent. It is not possible, however, to control this insect entirely when it occurs in its greatest abundance.

In addition, it is desirable to keep the plants thrifty and well watered. Mechanical and crop traps can be used with advantage. Clean culture is always advisable.

BROOM CORN FIBER DEMAND

Crop Compared With Many Other Farm Products—Marketing Methods Neglected.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Broom corn is marketed today by practically the same methods in use 70 years ago, according to statements made by specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture. It is a small crop compared with many other farm products and, owing to its limited use, has



Harvesting Broom Corn.

failed to command the attention of the marketing agencies which have played such an important part in developing the highly efficient systems for the distribution of the more important products.

SWEET CLOVER IS SENSITIVE

Crop Seldom Makes Profitable Growth on Acid Soil—Proper Inoculation Important.

While it is claimed by some that sweet clover will grow on almost any kind of soil, it seldom makes a profitable growth on an acid soil. It is one of the most sensitive crops to this condition. An application of two tons of ground limestone or from two to three cubic yards of marl is usually necessary to secure a good crop on an acid soil. Proper inoculation is important.



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